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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/576,101

04/18/2006

Atsuhiko Koizumi

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EXAMINER

CHEMPAKASERIL, ANN J

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/576,101	Applicant(s) KOIZUMI ET AL.	
	Examiner ANN J. CHEMPAKASERIL	Art Unit 2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/18/2006-4/25/2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-14 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6662199 issued to Flight et al. (hereinafter Flight)

As per claims 1, 12, 13 and 14, Flight discloses, supporting introduction/operation of Enterprise Resource Planning software, the system supporting introduction or operation of the ERP software by a computer, the computer comprising:

a document management unit configured to manage data of a relevant document of the ERP software, the relevant document including a business flow diagram wherein hierarchized business elements express a business flow in a business domain managed by the ERP software (the process and/or end result of customizing one or more software applications, such as ERP tools, to reflect a particular business' schemas, data formats, views, visual representations of data and workflows, the workflows themselves, wizards for building workflows and/or end products, and the other characteristics of how a business manages information. [Col 5, lines 43-55]);

a database configured to store data for relating a customizing item, a location of the customizing item, and the relevant document to the business domain and the business element of the ERP software (The present scheme adopts somewhat of a hybrid data representation technique and uses a base table for storing/representing information that can be expected to be common to a number of end-users (e.g., businesses) and an auxiliary or spill-over table that can be individually customized for each user (business) on an as-needed basis. [Col 7, lines 34-45]);

a search unit configured to search data of the locations of the customizing items corresponding to a specified business element and other business elements on a lower layer than the specified business element, from the database Each of these engines 54 and 56 is capable of accessing the database 42 through the use of the multi-part naming scheme described above and also communicate with one another to generate the visual representations of the workflows. Interestingly, the user interface engine 56 may be configured to allow for user-specified items to be represented not by absolute values but rather by estimates, recommendations or preferences. [Col 13, lines 50-65])

an output unit configured to output a result of the search (Data and content management layer 44b provides facilities for managing transaction and database information, bills of material, job specifications and content, etc. This is that layer that provides input to and output from the data organization scheme (i.e., the base and spillover tables) described above. Thus, this layer also makes use of the multi-part naming scheme. [Col 10, lines 30-36]).

As per claim 2, Flight discloses when the customizing item is specified, the search unit searches the data of the business element corresponding to the specified customizing item from the database (For example, the workflow engine must behave synchronously in that user-initiated actions must be seen (or at least perceived) to have rapid (even near-instantaneous) effect. This is true because users have become accustomed to interacting with Web forms and other server-based tools in a near real-time fashion. Therefore, as users interact with a workflow, those users will expect some form of rapid feedback. [Col 11, lines 37-50]).

As per claim 3, Flight discloses the database stores data for relating a section of an available district to the customizing item, and the search unit searches from the database the data of the section of the available district corresponding to the customizing item of which location is searched (Importantly, the spill-over table 20 is accessed in the same way as the base table 10. That is, the spill-over table 20 may be accessed using the same multi-part name designators as are used for accessing information stored in base table 10. The multi-part names define relationships between data objects (and in some cases, non-data objects such as business rules) and may do so in human-recognizable form so as to clearly show those relationships. So, if "project.date" can be used as a name to access the date information for a specified project from base table 10, "project.paper.weight" may be used to access the custom field for the weight of paper to be used for the project from spill-over table 20. [Col 8, lines 44-60]).

As per claim 4, Flight discloses when a business domain is specified instead of the business element, the search unit searches from the database the data of the location of the customizing item corresponding to the specified business domain (So, if "project.date" can be used as a name to access the date information for a specified project from base table 10, "project.paper.weight" may be used to access the custom field for the weight of paper to be used for the project from spill-over table 20. [Col 8, lines 44-60]).

As per claim 5, Flight discloses the database stores data for relating a business body utilizing the ERP software to business management with the business domain and the business element, the search unit searches, when the business domain is specified without specifying the business body, searches all the business bodies, and the output unit outputs the search result combining the corresponding business element and the business body (The spill-over table 20 is thus expandable to accommodate the unique customizations of the individual users and/or groups of users (i.e., such personalizations may be organized into domains or groups that are shared across multiple users and, in some cases, may be inherited within subgroups or across groups of these domains). [Col 8, lines 20-30]).

As per claim 6, Flight discloses the search unit searches from the database the relevant documents corresponding to the specified business element and the other business elements on the lower layer than the specified business element, instead of the location of the customizing item (For example, consider a situation where a base table 10 is designated as the "project" table. The project table includes fields such as

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date, time, job number, and due date. One particular customer (e.g., a print shop customer of the Web resource hosting the present application) may require that all jobs include a designation of the weight of the paper to be used. [Col 9, lines 20-35]).

As per claim 7, Flight discloses the database stores data for relating program development information to the business element, the search unit searches from the database the program development information corresponding to the specified business element and the other business elements on the lower layer than the specified business element, instead of the location of the customizing item For example, consider a situation where a base table 10 is designated as the "project" table. The project table includes fields such as date, time, job number, and due date. One particular customer (e.g., a print shop customer of the Web resource hosting the present application) may require that all jobs include a designation of the weight of the paper to be used. [Col 9, lines 20-35]).

As per claim 8, Flight discloses the data of the relevant document includes data of a program development document, the database stores data for relating the development document to the development information, and the search unit searches the development document corresponding to the searched development information For example, consider a situation where a base table 10 is designated as the "project" table. The project table includes fields such as date, time, job number, and due date. One particular customer (e.g., a print shop customer of the Web resource hosting the present application) may require that all jobs include a designation of the weight of the paper to be used. [Col 9, lines 20-35]).

As per claim 9, Flight discloses the data of the relevant document includes data of a program summary report, the database stores data for relating the program summary report to the business element, and the search unit searches the program summary report corresponding to the specified business element and the other business elements lower layer than the specified business element, instead of the location of the customizing item (That is, through database 42, its related interfaces 44 and various communication interfaces 46 and operating systems (not shown), server 40 is configured to provide a hosted environment for one or more customer-specific variations of a data storage and retrieval scheme that includes a base table to store attributes common to each of the customer-specific variants and a spill-over table to store customer-specific attributes for associated individual ones of the customer-specific variants, the attributes of the base table and spill-over table each sharing a common, human readable name referencing scheme. [Col 9, lines 50-65]).

As per claim 10, Flight discloses the computer further comprises a setting control unit configured to, based on the location of the customizing item selected from the searched result, control to display a setting window corresponding to the customizing item on the ERP software (This guidance in what interfaces to present to a user and when to present them is provided, in part, by the workflow engine which is configured to group logical nodes of a business process into a transaction, rather than simply displaying every possible node (decision points) as may be done with conventional workflow engines. By reducing the workflow nodes to meaningful transaction points, the

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workflow engine can instruct the user interface engine to only display those nodes where meaningful input is needed/desired. [Col 12, lines 40-55]).

As per claim 11, Flight discloses the computer further comprises an entry update control unit configured to, based on contents of data entry or update of the database, control to enter and update data on the database managed by the ERP software (Therefore, as users interact with a workflow, those users will expect some form of rapid feedback. This may be as simple as updating a form or it may require a more complex action such as generating a request for a quotation or a response thereto. [Col 11, lines 45-50])).

Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANN J. CHEMPAKASERIL whose telephone number is (571)272-9767. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 9-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ann J Chempakaseril/
Examiner, Art Unit 2166

/Isaac M. Woo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2166

September 4, 2009